

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum to JANIS contributors.

In accordance with the verbal agreement reached in the meeting of JANIS contributors on Thursday, November 3, the following table of differences between the PCGN system, 1942, and the BGN system of Russian transliteration is submitted:

<u>PCGN, 1942</u>	<u>Cyrillic</u>	<u>BGN</u>
j, dzh	ДЖ	dzh
'	Ь	"
y	bl; bl'Й	y, yy

As the table shows there are only three differences in the two systems. Practically it is less than that, for the cyrillic letter Ъ is rarely used. In a representative selection of over 2,000 place names we found it used only once.

In both systems Д is transliterated as "d," and Ж as "zh." In combination (ДЖ), however, they are always transliterated as "dzh" by BGN, while if they are a part of the same syllable they are transliterated as "J" by the PCGN system. Although one can be sure that where they are combined at the beginning of a word they are part of the same syllable, only one who knows Russian can be sure of the breakdown in the middle of a word. Therefore, the BGN system is simpler and permits transliteration back to the cyrillic.

\*JCS review completed\*

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